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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 7 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first six weeks of 1987 was an estimated 96.1 billion ton-miles, down 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 7 totaled 391,457, up 2.2 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 6.7 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 1.0 percent in the East and up 5.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. However, grain increased by 2,795 cars (11.4 percent) and chemicals and allied products showed a gain of 1,609 cars (6.6 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 31 totaled 94,185 trailers and/or containers, 1.2 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first five weeks of the year was 436,105 trailers and/or containers, up 2.2 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/07/87:

	Loadings in Week ended February 7, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,308	I	2,795	11.4	I	2,073	8.2
Other farm products	3,764	I	104	2.8	D	426	10.2
Metallic ores	12,955	I	454	3.6	I	1,065	9.0
Coal	112,693	D	3,279	2.8	I	12,293	12.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,265	I	448	4.6	I	1,291	14.4
Nonmetallic minerals	9,243	I	137	1.5	I	2,057	28.6
Grain mill products	11,192	I	212	1.9	D	226	2.0
Food and kindred products	11,615	I	597	5.4	I	590	5.4
Primary forest products	11,023	D	513	4.4	I	703	6.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,775	I	600	8.4	D	833	9.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,992	D	546	4.0	D	582	4.3
Chemicals and allied products	26,013	I	1,609	6.6	D	30	0.1
Petroleum products	4,676	D	159	3.3	D	487	9.4
Stone, clay and glass products	8,894	I	142	1.6	I	946	11.9
Coke	4,311	I	1	0.0	I	473	12.3
Metals and products	8,457	I	803	10.5	I	125	1.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,290	D	671	2.9	I	351	1.6
Waste and scrap materials	8,681	D	55	0.6	I	596	7.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,159	D	2,476	43.9	I	226	7.7
All other carloads	74,050	I	8,124	12.3	I	4,477	6.4
LCL traffic	101	D	43	29.9	D	12	10.6
Total Cars Loaded	391,457	I	8,284	2.2	I	24,670	6.7
Corresponding week of 1986	383,457						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (6 weeks)	2,129,782	2,198,999	D 3.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Five Weeks ended January 31	78.6	82.4	D 4.6
Week ended February 7	17.5	17.4	I 0.5
6 Weeks cumulative	96.1	99.8	D 3.7

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